

News Release



For Immediate Release

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RANGERS AT DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE™ PARK

HONORARY RANGER WALT DISNEY WOULD BE PROUD



Picture courtesy California State Park Rangers Association

October 1965, DISNEYLAND® park founder Walt Disney is awarded the honor of being an Honorary State Park Ranger by Darryl Knoeffler (left) and Paul Griffith (right), of the California State Park Rangers Association.

ANAHEIM, CA – When DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE™ park opens its gates on Thursday, February 8, 2001, California State Park Rangers will be on-hand to help celebrate an attraction that pays tribute to California's spectacular wilderness areas and its vast cultural richness.

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California State Park Rangers are the career men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting and preserving the best of California's natural and cultural resources, and so it is fitting for these same Rangers to join Disney in it's unique re-creation of some of California's most magnificence wilderness areas. It is fitting also, because just ten years after Walt Disney opened DISNEYLAND® park in 1955, he was awarded the distinction of being an Honorary State Park Ranger by the California State Park Rangers Association.

Walt Disney was made an Honorary State Park Ranger because of his efforts in getting the 1964 State Park and Recreation Bond Act passed by voters. Walt Disney not only endorsed the bond act, he also agreed to be on the executive board of Californians for Beaches and Parks, and his film studio produced a 14-minute color movie that played a central role in the campaign. Walt Disney was instrumental in helping to establish the magnificent park system we have today in California.

State Parks will be providing four Rangers during the grand opening: Dave Gould, Carlos Porrata, Jim Serpa, and Winter Bonnin. Their job will be to help explain and interpret the Redwood Creek Challenge Trail area of the park, a section designed to resemble the magnificent redwoods found in several California State Parks. They will share stories and information about California's wilderness, ecology and the animals that inhabit the Golden State. The Rangers will be at DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE™ park from February 8th through the 11th.

If there is a desire for a black and white glossy reproduction of the picture included in this press release, please contact John Arnold at the State Parks Communications Office in Sacramento at (916) 653-7090.

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